

REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment A is to re-introduce claims 2 through 4, which Applicant attempted to prosecute in conjunction with the parent patent application. The Examiner of said parent patent application, in his Advisory Action mailed October 24, 2000, refused to enter these claims (which at that time were denominated as claims 52-54) in said parent patent application. Support for all three of these new claims is found in the grandparent patent application as originally filed. Consideration of this new application, and allowance of all claims herein, claims 2-4, are hereby respectfully requested.

A copy of the grandparent patent application, upon which priority is based, including specification, drawings, declaration, and one claim, is enclosed. The undersigned, who is registered to practice before the Untied States Patent and Trademark Office, hereby avers that said copy is a true copy of said grandparent patent application as originally filed on September 27, 1991.

The drawings originally submitted with the grandparent patent application were accepted in the parent patent application as being formal drawings. Therefore, new drawings are not being submitted herein.

The title is being amended to more accurately describe the invention as claimed.

The specification is being amended, and the abstract added, to indicate the priority chain as required by 35 U.S.C. §120; to give additional information concerning

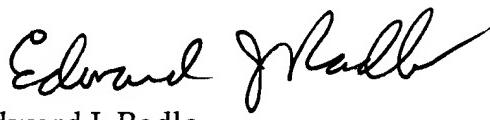
related patent applications; and to re-introduce those amendments that were made in conjunction with the prosecution of the parent patent application.

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance of all claims herein, claims 2-4, and therefore an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees or believes that for any other reason, direct contact with Applicant's attorney would help advance the prosecution of this case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

date of signature:

Jan. 12, 2001


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